

**A SUPPLEMENTAL DESCRIPTIVE
CATALOGUE OF SPECIMENS OF
LACE ACQUIRED FOR THE SOUTH
KENSINGTON MUSEUM, BETWEEN
JUNE 1890 AND JUNE 1895**

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A supplemental descriptive catalogue of specimens of lace acquired for the South Kensington Museum, between June 1890 and June 1895 by Alan S. Cole

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ALAN S. COLE

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LACE ACQUIRED FOR THE SOUTH
KENSINGTON MUSEUM, BETWEEN
JUNE 1890 AND JUNE 1895**

SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT
OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION,
SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

A
SUPPLEMENTAL
DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF
SPECIMENS OF LACE

ACQUIRED FOR THE
SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM,

BETWEEN JUNE 1890 AND JUNE 1895.

BY ALAN S. COLE.



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TO THE
AMERICAN

CATALOGUE.

I.

ITALIAN.

ALB. Pleated linen, trimmed with deep flounce, collar, and cuffs of needle-point lace—" *Punto tagliato a foliamì*"—also known as Rose-point. The pattern is composed of repeated groups of formal scrolls bearing simple leaf and fanciful blossom devices. These latter are filled in with open work and "modes" of small diaper and other ornament, and are further emphasised by raised work, the edge of which is variously treated with large and small scallops of "picots." These enriched portions of the design are well contrasted with the plain treatment of the scrolling stems. The details of the entire pattern are held together by small bars or "brides," upon which are little circular devices edged with very small "picots," *Italian (Venetian)*. About 1660. Alb, L. 5 ft. 8 in., W. with sleeves, 6 ft. 6 in.; cuff, L. 10½ in.; flounce, L. 11 ft. 4 in., W. 2 ft. 9 in. (Bolckow Bequest.) 757.-'90.

ALTAR CLOTH. Linen; drawn and whipped white thread work; and drawn thread and red silk work. The wider trimming of white thread drawn work is made up of a broad band having a diaper of lozenges enclosing stars, a narrow upper band, which has a pattern consisting of a continuous zig-zag band with formal tulip blossoms vertically placed between the zig-zags; and a lower narrow band of repeated reversings of a formal bell shape blossom and a sort of star ornament, connected together by S-curved stems; inserted bands of similar patterns are placed vertically in the altar cloth. Along the bottom is sewn a border in which the pattern of S-shaped leafy devices, alternately reversed, is left in the linen on a ground of red silk worked round the

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threads of the warp and weft to form square meshes. A gimp fringe runs round three sides. *Italian*. Late 16th centy. H. 2 ft. 9½ in., L. 7 ft. 11 in. Bought, 5l. 15s. 6d. 745.-'92.

ALTAR FRONTAL. Linen, trimmed with three panels of coarse square mesh net, darned ("*Lacis* or *punto a maglia quadra*") with symmetrical and conventional vases of flowers, and separated by two bands of repeated reversings of fanciful and cumbrous scroll devices, which are stitched with minor circular and other simple shapes; the ornament left on the linen has a ground about it of drawn thread work and green silk whipped round the threads of the warp and weft to form square meshes. A gimp fringe surrounds three sides. *Italian*. Late 16th centy. H. 2 ft. 3½ in., L. 4 ft. 3½ in. Bought, 7l. 7s. 746.-'92.

ALTAR FRONTAL. Linen, trimmed with four panels of coarse square mesh net, darned ("*Lacis* or *punto a maglia quadra*") with fragmentary details from a pattern consisting of symmetrical and conventional vases of flowers; these panels are separated by three linen bands of drawn thread and whipped red silk-work, two having fanciful tree and oblique blossom arrangements repeated and reversed, and one with mermaids with scrolling tails that terminate in leafy devices; these patterns are left in the linen, on a ground of red silk worked round the thread of the warp and weft to form a square mesh. The borders are similarly worked, that at the bottom consisting of mermaids, and those at the sides of a knotted cord and spreading bud device, separated and reversed. *Italian*. Late 16th centy. L. 4 ft. 6 in., W. 24½ in. Bought, 7l. 17s. 6d. 747.-'92.

ALTAR FRONTAL. Linen, trimmed with four panels of coarse square mesh net, darned ("*Lacis* or *punto a maglia quadra*") with stag and vase device repeated. These are separated and bordered by six bands, four of them with conventional S scrolls and floral devices left in the linen, on a ground of blue silk worked round the threads of the warp and weft to form square meshes. The bands along the bottom edge and up the middle of the frontal are worked with a repeating design of angular birds *vis-à-vis* with a vase between each pair stitched in blue silk outline with an intervening ground of yellow silk worked in close

rows of chain stitches. A gimp fringe surrounds three sides. *Italian*. 16th or 17 cent. H. 3 ft. 1 in., L. 5 ft. 11½ in. Bought, 7l. 17s. 6d. 748.-'92.

APRON. Linen, with insertion of four upright bands united by a transverse band of diaper lozenge design, executed in cut-work and satin stitch embroidery; the bordering of the two sides is composed of narrow bands of similar work with vandyke edging of twisted threads, along the bottom runs a scalloped border of plaited and twisted threads, (tape pillow lace) with squares containing blossom devices in the upper part of the border, and corresponding inverted devices in the scallops. *Italian*. 17th cent. L. 3 ft. 8 in., greatest width, 6 ft. 3½ in. Bought, 8l. 8s. 348.-'91.

APRON. Linen; a cut-work border is sewn along the bottom, decorated with a series of repeated similarly shaped linen compartments embroidered, in satin stitches with white thread, with floral and cable devices, and surrounded by cut-work, and stitched angular, and crossing stems. The lower border is edged with a vandyked band of twisted and plaited thread-work, the pattern of which consists of repeated obliquely set bars or bands, between which are groups of small compact star-shape devices. Of similar work are the two borders at the sides, and the piece of insertion in the middle of the apron. *Italian*. 17th cent. L. 3 ft. 7 in., greatest W. 5 ft. 10 in. Bought, 7l. 10s. 1453.-'92.

BAND (end of). Drawn thread and needle-point lace work. ("*Punto a Reticella*."). The pattern is composed of small squares, some of which are crossed by ornamental diagonals, forming along the length of the piece a zig-zag device. Within the spaces, between the zig-zag and the outer sides of the band, are triangular devices arranged to form semi-diamond shapes, the centres of which are double open squares with small close work devices in each. The outer borders are of twisted and plaited thread work "*Merletti a piombini*," with pattern of continuous thin scroll stem edged with a series of small vandykes. *Italian*. About 1590. L. 11½ in., W. 3½ in. (Bolckow Bequest.) 798.-'90.

BAND OF INSERTION. Needle-point lace. ("*Punto a Reticella*."). The pattern is divided into squares, filled

alternately with one of two repeating ornaments radiating from the centres. The first ornament consists of a lozenge, enclosing a combined square and cross device. Upon each of the four sides is a triangle. The second ornament is made up of combined circle and floriated cross device, about and beyond which are four thick incurved shapes. The whole pattern is united together by "brides picotées." *Italian*. Late 16th centy. L. 14 in., W. 4 in. Bought, 5s. 1254-'93.

BORDER, Needle-point lace, having a floral scroll pattern united by ties or "brides," worked with "picots," and at some of the joints with loops and "picots"; the "modes" or fillings-in are composed of various diaper mesh devices. This kind of work belongs to the class of so-called "*Points Plats de Venise*." *Italian or French*.^{*} 17th centy, about 1670. L. 3 ft. 2 in., W. 9½ in. Bought, 4l. 618.-'90.

* The awkwardness of some of the forms, and the mingling together of many of the fillings or "modes," suggest that the lace-maker of this piece was not highly proficient. It is possible that such a piece as this would have been made in the early days of French needle-point lace-making, when Venetian instructresses had been brought over to Paris and elsewhere by Colbert for the purpose of developing needle-point lace-making in France.

BORDER FOR A SKIRT. Needle-point lace, of very minute work, known usually as "*point de neige*." The pattern is composed of repetitions, in alternation, of two different vertical groups of small scrolls richly ornamented with small raised devices in relief, decorated with minute loops and "picots," and united by "brides" with loops and "picots." This border is intact. *Italian (Venetian)*. 17th centy, about 1670 to '80. L. 8 ft. 7 in., W. 3¼ in. (Bolckow Bequest.) 762.-'90.

BORDER FOR A SKIRT. Needle-point lace of very minute work, known usually as "*point de neige*." The pattern is composed of repetitions in alternation of two different vertical groups of small scrolls richly ornamented with small raised devices in relief, decorated with clusters of minute loops and "picots," and united by "brides" with loops and "picots." *Italian (Venetian)*. 17th centy, about 1670 to '80. L. 8 ft. 8 in., W. 3¼ in. (Bolckow Bequest.) 763.-'90.

BORDER FOR A SLEEVE. Needle-point lace of very minute work, known usually as "*point de neige*." The pattern is composed of repetitions of a group of a central vertical

device with corresponding diversified scrolls on each side of it. The various scrolls, &c. are richly ornamented with small raised devices in relief, decorated with clusters of minute loops or "picots," and the whole is united by "brides" with loops and "picots." This border is intact. *Italian (Venetian)*. 17th cent., about 1670 to '80. L. 3 ft. 4 in., W. 2½ in. (Bolckow Bequest.)

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765.-'90.

BORDER. Needle-point lace, known as Rose-point and as "*point de neige*," or snow point. The design consists of two different groups of scroll devices in raised work: in one, the central raised devices are flanked by corresponding leafy and blossom-scrolling stems of flat work chiefly; in the other, the raised devices are somewhat larger and spread out more widely on each side of the centres; in the lower part of the design small knotted and intertwining scrolls are a feature. The various relief parts are richly decorated with loops and "picots." The whole is united by occasional "brides," with loops and "picots." *Italian (Venetian)*, about 1660-80. 17th cent. L. 2 ft. 9½ in., W. 2½ in. (Bolckow Bequest.) 766.-'90.

BORDER. Needle-point lace, known as Rose-point and as "*point de neige*," or snow point. The design consists of two different groups of scroll devices in raised work: in one, the central raised devices are flanked by corresponding leafy and blossom-scrolling stems of flat work chiefly; in the other, the raised devices are somewhat larger and spread out more widely on each side of the centres; in the lower part of the design small knotted and intertwining scrolls are a feature. The various relief parts are richly decorated with loops and "picots." The whole is united by occasional "brides," with loops and "picots."